

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical network comprising:  
first and second adjacent nodes;  
a first fiber configured to carry information in a clockwise direction from the  
first node to the second node, the first fiber having wavelength capacity allocated to working  
and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the first fiber  
being respectively assigned to first and second sets of wavelengths; and  
a second fiber configured to carry information in a counter-clockwise direction  
from the second node to the first node, the second fiber having wavelength capacity allocated  
to working and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the  
second fiber being respectively assigned to the second and first sets of wavelengths.